

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th November 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

REFERRING to the protest said to have been made by the Great Powers against the ratification of the Tibetan Agreement by China, the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 12th November writes:—

RATNAKAR,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

Apparently it is only the first act of the drama that has closed with the signing of the Agreement at Lhasa. The concluding act is not yet. For when great military Powers like Russia and Germany have begun to take interest in the play, it is not at all likely that they will be content merely to be spectators and to leave all the acting to the English alone. For they themselves are all expert actors on the stage of international politics. So who knows whether the successful performance of the English actor will not incite them also to attempt and play at least some part on the Tibetan stage before they retire to their homes?

2. Referring to the report published in the *London Times* that the Dalai Lama has been hospitably received in China, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika*

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

[Calcutta] of the 16th November says that the convention with Tibet ought to have been drawn up after careful consultation with the Chinese Government.

3. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November writes:—

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

The Tibetan Agreement.

It is said that not only Russia but the other Great Powers as well are protesting against the Tibetan Agreement. The matter therefore assumes the importance of an international crisis. If Great Britain now attempts to coerce China into accepting the provisions of the Agreement, the protesting Powers also will demand equal privileges with Britain for themselves. For instance, the Agreement reserves the mining rights in Tibet for Britain only. The other Powers have demanded a share in those rights. If China through fear agrees to their demands, an international crisis is likely to arise. The signs are not very promising. British statesmen ought to act with great coolness and foresight at this juncture if they are to avert a terrible calamity in the future.

4. Commenting on Lord Lansdowne's recent Guildhall speech on the North Sea outrage question, the same

HITAVADI.

The North Sea outrage.

paper observes that Government appears to be ashamed of its recent defeat by Russian diplomacy and of its inability to risk the chances of a war; and that this speech is an attempt to justify the Government attitude before the British public. The speech reads like a plea on behalf of Russia. If Lord Lansdowne really believes that the Russians fired on the English trawlers under the impression that they were Japanese torpedo-boats, one can only praise Lord Lansdowne's simplicity of heart. But it is not likely that a similar explanation from a weaker Power would have been so easily accepted by Government. It is because both the Powers are equally strong in this case that this affair is settled peaceably in this way.

Referring to the passage of the Black Sea volunteer ships through the Dardanelles, the same paper remarks that these ships could at will be converted into regular war-ships. And nobody can say that Russia will not do so, if she thinks it safe to do it. Thus it appears that Russia is trying to bring about by policy, what she is not permitted to do by treaty. The English know this well, and they also know that Russia will not mind any protest they might make. Probably it is this consciousness which has prevented both sides from making any fuss over this question. There is no doubt that Russia deserves credit for the skill she has shown in this affair.

5. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 14th November has the following:—

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

The Persian Gulf question.

One of the objects of Lord Curzon's visit to the Persian Gulf was to settle the gulf question. England has long been trying

to have that gulf under her full command, but seeing that other Powers are opposed to it, she is now trying to exclude them from those waters by making friends with the petty independent rulers whose States lie on its shores. If she succeeds in doing that, no other nation would be able to threaten her commercial and political supremacy in those regions. Lord Curzon has been able to bring some of these petty chiefs under the political influence of England. With Persia she made an agreement under which Persia will not in future grant any concession, calculated to injure her political and commercial interest, to any Power but herself. England is trying her best to prevent Germany from making Koweit the terminus of the Bagdad Railway.

The settlement of the Seistan and the Helmund boundaries with Persia and Afghanistan were other questions to which Lord Curzon attached much importance. The Helmund Commission has included the Helmund river in British Baluchistan. The Kabul Mission will probably have to go into this question too, as that river has hitherto been within the dominions of the Amir.

The Amir is very favourably disposed towards the frontier tribes, specially the Afridis. The official class of India consider this ominous and the importation of a large quantity of arms and ammunition into Afghanistan has attracted the notice of the British Government. This will prove a very delicate and perilous question for the Kabul Mission to settle with the Amir.

England has occupied the port of Wei-Hai-Wei in China on condition that so long as Russia will remain in possession of Port Arthur she will not evacuate it. If Japan succeeds in expelling Russia from Manchuria, England will, according to that condition, have to leave that port.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

6. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November, in referring to the protest recently made by the Sultan of Turkey against the appointment of an English agent at

The State of Koweit.

Koweit on the Persian Gulf, observes that many people believe that Germany is behind Turkey's back in this matter, and that she is inciting her to make the protest. The motive is furnished by the interests of German capitalists in the Bagdad Railway, the opening of which could make Koweit a great port. The time for these protests, however, was when the British Government announced that the "Sheikh" of Koweit had accepted British protection. There is not much chance of any good being done now, but of course when Germany is concerned in the matter, nobody can say that there is absolutely no fear of any trouble arising on this question.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

7. Referring to a resolution passed at a meeting recently held at Pretoria in South Africa, excluding all Asiatics, excepting only coolies, from the Transvaal, the *Sri Sri*

Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika [Calcutta] of the 16th November asks whether there were any British delegates present in the meeting. Will the British Government give its sanction to the measure? Some concession ought to be made at least in favour of the Indians whose welfare is so intimately mixed up with that of the Government.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

8. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 18th November writes:—

Immigration of Indians into
South Africa.

One of the principal causes of the late Boer war was the ill-treatment of Indian subjects by the Boer Government. Special stress was laid on this point in the British manifesto at the declaration of war. Since then great changes have happened and the Boers are now humble subjects of the British. But on this question of the treatment of Indians the opinion of the uncivilised Boers remains now much what it was two years ago. For their leaders (including men like Botha) have recently petitioned the British Government praying that immigration of Indian subjects into their country might be restricted to the class of coolies only. They themselves are permitted to enjoy self-government—an act of generosity on the part of the British they could not think of in their wildest anticipations. Still they are not content. The *London Times* has recently published a thoughtful article on this question, blaming the Boers for the attitude they have taken up, and insisting on the need of firmness on the part of the Home Ministry in its settlement of this question. Asiatics who are British subjects must enjoy greater rights than other Asiatics in British Colonies, otherwise the prestige of the British Government

would be injured in the eyes of the world. It is to be humbly hoped that the reputation which Indian subjects had hitherto enjoyed outside India will be kept intact under the ægis of British rule.

9. Referring to the inconveniences and disabilities to which the Indians are subject in South Africa under the laws of that country in the matter of walking on the footpath, etc., and the recent resolution of a conference of the white residents against free immigration of Indians, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st November says that since the white races of South Africa are strong, they can prevent the Indians entering that country. We wish, we too had strength enough to say that we too would not allow the Indians to go to South Africa.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 21st, 1904.

10. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November says that it is not a good omen that on the eve of the despatch of the Kabul and Persian Missions a European has been murdered on his way from Kabul to India by an Afghan, and that two Englishmen named Major Douglas and Mr. Lorimer have been shot by the Persians. Attempts are of course being made to belittle the seriousness of these incidents.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

11. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November notes with approval a paragraph in the *Pioneer* in which reference is made to the Somali war as a needless waste of blood and treasure, for the friendliness of the tribes can never be relied on to last long; so that sooner or later the Government will be compelled to evacuate the country.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

12. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 21st November says that, according to Reuter's telegram, Russia is persuading the Powers to declare the Straits of Dardanelles as a free water navigable by all nations by repealing the article of the Berlin Treaty imposing restrictions on such navigation, for Russia is anxious to use the straits in her present need. It must be borne in mind that should the article be repealed, England would be the greatest sufferer, as the Black Sea Fleet would be a constant source of trouble to her navy in Asia.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HARLUL
MATEEN,
Nov. 21st, 1904.

13. Referring to the Mission, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st November says that the indifference of the Amir towards England at a time when it is so alarmed at Russia's approaching the borders of India, has naturally aroused the suspicions of England. One of the objects of the Mission may therefore be to remove this indifference of the Amir. It will be good both for India as well as for Afghanistan if the Mission accomplishes its task without a hitch.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 21st, 1904.

14. The same paper is unable to guess the object of the visit which Prince Enayetulla Khan, son of the Amir of Kabul, proposes to pay to Lord Curzon, and asks if any secret State policy is underlying it. All that we are anxious for is that the tie of friendship between England and Afghanistan may become stronger by this visit.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

15. Referring to the extensive gambling in which the people indulged on the occasion the last *Devali* festival and which resulted in many persons becoming penniless, the *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 12th November asks Government to interfere and put a stop to this pernicious practice, even on the occasion of the *Devali* festival, as it leads people to commit a good many other vices, for the suppression of which the Government has subsequently to make many efforts.

ARYAVARTA,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

RATNAKAR,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

16. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 12th November writes:—

Waste of drinking water in a village in Burdwan.

Samil Basudha is a village in thana Kanksa, district Burdwan. There is only one tank in the village, named "Kulupukur," which supplies the inhabitants with drinking water. Unfortunately some of the cultivators have begun to use the water of this tank for irrigation purposes. As the tank is neither deep nor large, there is a great risk that this new demand on its water will leave it quite empty in the summer. It is to be hoped that the District Magistrate will see the necessity of preserving the water of this tank for drinking purposes only and interfere.

BIRBHUM VARTA,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

17. The *Birbhum Varta* [Birbhum] of the 14th November calls attention to the great prevalence of the crimes of theft and incendiarism in the town of Suri, and requests

Crime at Suri.

vigilance on the part of the local police.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

18. In announcing that the Hon'ble Mr. H. Savage, C.S.I., I.C.S., has been placed on special duty to report on the question of improving the existing chaukidari system, the

The chaukidari-tax.

Charu Mihir [Mymensingh] of the 15th November points out that any improvement in the quality of the existing chaukidars must be a question of additional expense. As the chaukidari-tax is already a grievous burden on the people, it is suggested that the additional funds should be found by Government.

SOLTAN,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

19. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 18th November brings a charge of

A complaint against a Duffadar in the district of Nadia.

neglect of duty against Nabibux Karikar, daffadar of union No. 18, and an inhabitant of village Raghunathpur, thana Karimpur, in the district of Nadia. It is alleged that the daffadar entirely neglects his patrolling duties, and further that he has accepted service as gomasta at Megna Golabati under Babu Sarada Prasad Chatterjee.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

20. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 18th November warns the public against the deception practised by the many

A new form of the Kabuli nuisance.

Peshawari Musalmans who have opened stalls on the streets of Calcutta and whose professed business is to put on "Blackie's shoe-protectors." Their *modus operandi* is as follows. When they see a passer-by going with a new pair of shoes in his possession they invite him and offer to get his shoes fitted with these "protectors" for a certain stipulated price. But with the shoe once in possession, they refuse to give it up until they have put on quite an unnecessarily large number of these protectors, so as to find a plea for demanding a price much in excess of that originally agreed upon. The owner of the shoe has to quietly submit to the extortion, for experience proves that he can expect no assistance from the local policeman.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 21st, 1904.

21. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st November prays that the Government may adopt measures for checking the oppression which the Kabulis commit in the

Kabuli oppression.

mufassal. Every year during the winter season a swarm of Kabulis come down to the United Provinces and Bengal, and do a good deal of money-lending and cloth-selling business, but harass their poor and ignorant customers in various ways. The paper cites the Midnapore case in which a Kabuli was found oppressing a poor woman and assaulting the man who tried to protect her.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

Settlement of disputes by arbitration.

16th November says that the evil of excessive litigation, which is the great curse of the country, may be minimised by referring disputes to arbitration by competent Committees. Individual efforts may do some good, but if Government takes some interest in the matter, the result may be very satisfactory. Considering the attitude of Government in these days, can any hope be entertained in this direction? If Government had not derived such an enormous income from the sale of court-fee stamps, there might have been

some ground for such a hope. As it is, no sympathy can be expected from Government.

23. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 20th November makes the following allegations against Babu Chandi Charan Chowdhury, the Sub-Registrar of Palang in Faridpur:—

Allegations against the Sub-Registrar of Palang in Faridpur.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Nov. 20th, 1904.

- (1) He does not attend office punctual to the time.
- (2) Men who come to him strictly on business, when they happen to be poor, are troubled by him with enquiries into their family affairs, which are of a purely personal nature, and have no bearing on the business in hand.
- (3) The documents belonging to the local zamindars are first registered, so that the many comparatively poor men who may have come earlier are detained unnecessarily.
- (4) Almost every document which is presented for registration is immediately returned with a date impressed and a notice written on it requesting the party presenting the document to appear on a second day with witnesses. No previous examination is made as to whether the document is fit to be registered or not, or whether there is any mistake in it, or if the necessary witnesses and proofs had not been actually produced, etc.
- (5) There is an impression that the Sub-Registrar levies an extra fee for himself, in addition to those fixed by the law, for every document he registers.

(d)—Education.

24. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th November is glad that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has not approved of the proposal emanating from certain non-official gentlemen to entrust Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates with the task of collecting subscriptions for the proposed college at Ranchi. What can be a greater demoralization than that most of the members of the Committee had not the courage to speak out their minds against the proposed college?

The Ranchi College scheme.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

25. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November offers hearty thanks to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for his disapproval of the action of the Ranchi College Committee in entrusting Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates with the collection of subscriptions for the proposed college. But the Committee which passed the above resolution was presided over by Mr. Pedler and the proceedings were published over the signature of Mr. Earle. How then can such a meeting be called informal?

The proposed Ranchi College.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

26. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November, while expressing satisfaction at His Honour's recent assurance, conveyed in distinct terms, that he has no intention of abolishing the Presidency College either now or in the future, feels constrained to say, in the interests of truth, that the suspicions in the public mind raised by the somewhat vague nature of His Honour's previous utterance on the subject, have not been wholly and fully allayed even after this renewal of assurance. For if the Ranchi College is established, and if it does not prove self-supporting, it is sure to encroach on the funds now spent on the Presidency College, and thereby hasten the decay of the latter institution.

The Ranchi College scheme.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

27. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th November is glad that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has not approved the recommendation of the Sub-Committee to appoint Divisional Commissioners as Chairmen of the District Committees for collecting subscriptions for the proposed Ranchi College in consideration of the strong protest made by the public. We do not deny the necessity of a college like the one proposed by His Honour, but as such an institution is calculated to create a sense of distinction between the middle class and wealthy men and zamindars, the idea phrad better been given up.

The proposed Ranchi College.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 20th, 1904.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

28. Referring to Mr. Pedler's instructions to writers of text-books, as published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 16th

November 1904, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November observes that this device will not lead to the attainment of the desired object, which is to inculcate loyalty and submission to authority in the students by means of text-books. Nobody ever became loyal to the rulers by reading books. It is the goodness of the rulers themselves that alone can command the respect and love of the ruled. No one can respect people who are bent upon ruining those whom they govern.

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 11th, 1904.

29. In announcing the date of the Middle Scholarship Examination, and the last date for depositing fees it, for the *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 11th November points out that the new system entails a double

The new rules for the Middle Scholarship Examinations.

attendance on the part of the students at the district head-quarters, viz., first for their preliminary examination, and secondly for the final. The paper suggests as an alternative that the preliminary examinations might be held in different centres in the mufassal under the supervision of the local Head-Masters and Sub-Inspectors of Schools, leaving only the final examination to be held at the district head-quarters.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

30. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November takes exception to rule 25 of the Rules for Middle Scholarship Examinations issued by the Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, which fixes the district towns of

The centres for Middle Scholarship Examinations.

Mymensingh, Dacca, Faridpur and Barisal as centres for those examinations. Mufassal candidates will be greatly inconvenienced by the arrangement. It is to be hoped therefore that, as before, subdivisional towns will be fixed as centres for those examinations.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

31. The *Educational Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 18th November calls attention to a defect in the existing scheme of education in the absence of any provision for training the senses to

A suggestion.

learn, by the mere act of touch or sight, to estimate with fair accuracy the weights and areas of things. Considering the great practical utility of this acquirement, as well as of the great ignorance displayed of it by the general run of students, the paper suggests that this question should be taken up in earnest by the educational authorities.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 11th, 1904.

32. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 11th November reports the prevalence of an epidemic of cholera in and about the town of Chittagong.

Cholera in Chittagong.

BIRBHUM VARTA,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

33. The *Birbhum Varta* [Birbhum] of the 14th November calls attention to the outbreak of malaria in an epidemic form in Tantipara and other villages in Birbhum, owing to

Malaria in a Birbhum village.

the scarcity of a supply of pure drinking water. Owing to the failure of the rains, the local crops also are threatened with destruction.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

34. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 15th November, in noticing the prevalence of cholera in the town of Mymensingh and some villages in the mufassal, points out

Cholera in Mymensingh.

that the work of affording the necessary medical relief is hampered by the insufficient number of the existing charitable dispensaries in the district. The paper also suggests the desirability of having the municipal water-supply of the town of Mymensingh subjected to a chemical examination.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

35. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th November reports the prevalence of malaria in an almost epidemic form all over the district of Midnapore.

Malaria in Midnapore.

KHULNAVASI,
Nov. 19th, 1904.

36. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 19th November reports that the public health all over the district of Khulna is exceptionally bad now. Malaria, cholera, dysentery,

The public health in Khulna.

fever and pneumonia are all rampant. The drainage of the villages badly requires looking after.

37. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 20th November calls attention to the excessive prevalence of cholera in the Vikrampur pargana of Dacca, and ascribes it to the want of suitable provision for the supply of pure drinking water to the inhabitants.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Nov. 20th, 1904.

38. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd November, in commenting on the fact that the subject of rules for the prevention of the plague formed one of the subjects of discussion at the recent Conference of Commissioners at Darjeeling, quotes figures in support of its claim that malaria is more destructive to human life in India than the plague and, as such, demands prior attention at the hands of Government.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 22nd, 1904.

39. Referring to the appointment of Babu Ram Anugraha Narain Singh, Police Magistrate of Sealdah, as Chairman of the Maniktala Municipality and the vetoing of the election of Babu Anath Nath Mullick to the same office by Government, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th November says that Ram Anugraha Babu can scarcely be expected to properly perform the duties of his new office, as he has already enough work to do, nor can Government's treatment of Anath Babu be considered justifiable, inasmuch as the Chairmen of not a few Municipalities near Calcutta will be found like Anath Babu to be labouring under the same fatal disqualification, namely, want of experience.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November, in reporting the election of Babu Ram Anugraha Narain Singh, Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, as Chairman of the Maniktala Municipality, *vice* Babu Anath Nath Mallik, whose election was recently vetoed by Government, observes that this time, of course, the choice will command the approval of the Divisional Commissioner. If Government really preferred an official Chairman, why did it not say so plainly before? Would it not have been better to avoid all that childish talk about Anath Babu's unfitness and inexperience? The public has been treated to a good many pieces of scandal in connection with this affair. Is this an election or a farce?

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

41. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 17th November reports the prevalence of water-scarcity and the consequent outbreak of some cases of malaria at Chittagong. The alienation of the Badartalao spring, which really belonged to the public, to the Railway without any equivalent was a mistake, the effects of which will become increasingly prominent with the approaching conversion of Chittagong into a capital town. For, now the railway will either command a monopoly price for the water it will supply, or the Municipality will have to construct a water-works at great expense, both of which alternatives might have been avoided if the Municipality had been allowed to keep in its own hands what was really its own.

JYOTI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November, taking as a text the example furnished by the Republic of Liberia of successful self-government even by a semi-civilised race like the Negroes, draws the moral that the people of India would succeed equally well in self-government if only they were afforded an opportunity of exercising their talents. The plea that the Indians are not yet ripe for self-government is thus proved to be worthless, for surely the Indians are not inferior in intellect to the Negroes. The administrative talents of the Indian people are becoming rusted through long disuse. At present the free discussion of political affairs is placed under a ban by the officials and is regarded by them as equivalent to sedition. The posts which would afford scope for the display of initiative and talent are systematically kept closed to the natives. Powers long suspended or out of use are naturally in danger of getting extinct, and so it is that the natives are gradually coming to be regarded as unfit even for municipal self-government. What is wanted therefore is a relaxation of the present tight bonds of English officialism.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

The fact that India produced a succession of great statesmen in the times of the Moghuls and that the race suddenly became extinct with the advent of British rule leads to the strong presumption that it is because the English are

accustomed to do everything for the people and allow the people to do nothing for themselves that the latter are no longer able to keep up their former traditions of political talents. As Babu Bhudeb Mukerji has well said, "Who can doubt that, if India at this day were not politically subordinate to the English, she would build her own navy, man her own army, and conduct her own industries fully on a par with European countries? The Hindus lack no quality which the Japanese possess. There is no doubt that the Hindus would have been equally able with the Japanese to compete with the Europeans on equal terms, if only they had possessed political independence."

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

43. The same paper, in continuing its allegations against the Resident Surgeon of the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, Bhowanipur, Calcutta [noticed in paragraph 24 of the Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 19th November 1904], publishes in original two letters from two dismissed nurses named Mrs. Baxi and Srimati Mani De. In both these letters the writers allege that they were dismissed simply because they had caught the Doctor and another nurse named Sarasi throwing scents and garlands at each other and indulging in other familiarities of a more serious nature, and had afterwards talked about this affair to the other nurses in the hospital. A third letter in confirmation of the foregoing two is published, written by one Samuel Antony, of Church Street, Serampore, who some time ago resided in the hospital as a patient. It appears from this letter that the patient observed that the Doctor showed marked partiality to a particular nurse. It further appears that the arrangements for the supply of drinking water were insufficient and that the medicines and food were not supplied punctually to the time, but that the Doctor found no time to attend to all these complaints as he was too busy with his outside practice. To conclude, the paper puts the following questions:—

- (1) Whether even now Deben Babu is not daily engaged in outside practice; whether he does not daily go and dress the wound of Prince Gholam Mahomed of Tollyganj; and who operated on this patient?
- (2) Whether Deben Babu is not engaged in procuring certificates of character from distinguished persons?
- (3) Whether his removal from the post of House Surgeon at the Medical College had anything to do with his character?
- (4) Whether the site he has chosen for the construction of his stables in the hospital compound does not interfere with the health of the patients of the contagious diseases ward? and with whose permission was this site selected?

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 23rd, 1904.

44. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd November publishes a letter from four correspondents complaining of the mismanagement of the charitable dispensary maintained by the Cossipore-Chitpur Municipality. It is alleged that the native doctor in charge begins his attendance at the dispensary from 9 A.M., although the printed notice declares that he is to attend from 6 o'clock in the morning. In the evening the doctor is expected to attend from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M., but he usually spends all the time in the neighbouring library. Again, as regards the compounder, he also is usually late in attendance, and very often a clerk in the Municipal Office (quite ignorant of the art) is made to do duty as compounder. The bearer attached to the dispensary is employed by the doctor to do his private household work, and the dispensary doors are therefore not always opened at the proper time, so that patients who come early have to wait in the open.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 19th, 1904.

45. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th November says that both the Manicknagar Ghat and the road leading to it are regarded as sacred by pious Hindus. There are 53 sacred *aswath* trees planted according to Sastric rites by the side of this road. According to the *Sastras*, sacred *aswath* trees are the images of Narayana. A serious controversy has been raging for some months over the Manicknagar Ghat Road. The notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* intimated that the road would be acquired for a public purpose at

public expense. But the Secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has said plainly that the land in question is required for the use of Thomas Duff & Co. Is this a "public purpose?" Government has held out a threat that if the land is not allowed to be taken, the consequences will not be pleasant. It is to be hoped that His Honour will not, after all, allow the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus to be outraged in a matter like this.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

46. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th November writes:—

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

Survey and settlement operations in Government khas mahals in the Midnapore District.

The raiyats in the Government khas mahals in the Midnapore district are being severely oppressed by the officers engaged in the survey and settlement operations. These officers must have bribes from the raiyats, otherwise the latter are put to the greatest troubles. The attestation work is now proceeding in Balaram pargana. Notices have been issued to the raiyats to go to the officers' camp for the purpose of attestation. They go, but the officers will not take up their work. The raiyats dance attendance for weeks together and undergo the severest hardships, but the officers are obdurate and will not do the work. Immediately they return to their homes, notices of fine at annas 12 each are issued and the fines are realised. Raiyats who could not afford to pay any bribe to the *amins*, have their lands reduced in quantity, and if they apply to have their lands verified, they have to pay *amin* fees at annas 8 each. Raiyats who were not given *parchas* at the time of the *khanapuri* by the *amins* for not receiving bribes from them are now paying fine at the rate of annas 3 for each *parcha* and 3 pies for each piece of land. Bribes must be paid even to deposit these fines. It may thus be easily imagined how the poor raiyats are being oppressed.

The writer suggests that, as Balarampur is only two miles from Kharagpur, the nearest railway station, the District Magistrate should go himself to the spot and personally enquire into the circumstances obtaining there.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

47. The *Swadesi* [Barisal] of the 15th November writes:—

SWADESI,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

Wanted the restoration of a bridge.

There is a canal running through the town of Barisal up to Lakhutia, and over this canal there is a bridge at a point in the neighbourhood of the house of Babu Baikuntha Nath Dass, a local vakil. This bridge, long out of repair, has recently completely collapsed. In consideration of the great inconvenience this has caused to the local, specially the Kaunia, public, it is to be hoped that the authorities responsible will quickly restore the bridge.

48. A correspondent of the *Dainik* [Calcutta] of the 16th November calls attention to the inconvenience caused by the recent discontinuance of the sale of refreshments for

DAINIK,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

Railway complaints. Hindus at Bandel station on the East Indian Railway. Attention is also called to the fact that on many stations on this line, trains now start without any previous warning bell having been rung.

49. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th November complains that the authorities of the Bengal Provincial Railway do not provide a sufficient number of carriages to accommodate all the passengers comfortably on their trains. The evening train to Tarkessur on Saturdays is specially overcrowded.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

Overcrowding on the Bengal Provincial Railway.

50. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th November, in announcing that a survey of the long-projected Ranchi-

BANKURA DARPAN,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

The survey of the Purulia-Ranchi railway route.

Purulia line has at last been actually begun, points out that the alignment of the projected railway through the south part of the town of Purulia, as at present contemplated, will entail the destruction of many houses. In consideration of the inconvenience this will cause to many people, it is suggested that some other more suitable alignment may be found by the authorities.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BASAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

51. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Basar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th November suggests that the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities may with advantage

A suggestion.

both to themselves and to the public open stations for passenger traffic at the following places:—Kidderpur Docks, Koyla Ghat, Howrah Bridge, Bagh Bazar, Chitpur and Canal Junction.

JYOTI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

52. From the letter of a correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 17th November it appears that one Munshi Shaheb, the ticket-checker on duty with the night mail

A railway complaint.

train at Chandpur on the Assam-Bengal Railway, on the 8th November last attempted to force two more passengers into a third-class compartment which already held the full complement of passengers. There were two other compartments in the train where plenty of room was available, but the occupants of these had bribed the ticket-checker into locking up the doors of their compartments.

JYOTI.

53. The same paper notices a complaint made against the station-master of Gunabati station on the Assam-Bengal Railway, the substance of which is that this officer on some

A complaint against a railway employé.

day during the recent Puja holidays compelled some passengers who were occupying a compartment to vacate it, in order to make room for some friends of his. The District Traffic Superintendent was duly apprised of the fact by telegraph.

SOLTAN,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

54. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 18th November calls attention to certain inconveniences to passengers on the Bengal Central Railway. The speed of the trains is slow and the

The Bengal Central Railway.

arrangements for lighting the carriages at night are defective. The third-class carriages are dirty and full of vermin. The intermediate-class accommodation provided on the ordinary trains consists of only two-thirds of a single carriage and is quite inadequate to hold comfortably all the passengers who use it. The seats in the carriages are so low that no trunk or luggage of like size will go under. There are no sleeping berths in the intermediate-class cars. On other railways, return tickets issued for a distance of over a hundred miles are current for a fortnight or at least a week. But on this railway return tickets to and from Khulna (about 109 miles) expire in four days' time.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 19th, 1904.

55. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th November adversely criticises a proposal which is said to be under consideration to abolish the existing separate staffs of signallers and tally-clerks on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and

Rumoured abolition of signallers and tally-clerks on the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

to get the existing station-masters to do the work now done by these two classes of superseded officials. The station-masters, specially in the smaller stations, are already overworked, and unfit to take on extra work. It should not be forgotten that the recent Machpara disaster was owing to the absence of a signaller in the station. As regards the tally-clerks, they are to be abolished at those stations where the station-masters are permitted to draw "loading and unloading allowance." This allowance can, however, be no adequate compensation for the extra work, as its amount is already small, and even this small amount is subject to deductions on account of fines and compensations.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 22nd, 1904.

56. The same paper of the 22nd November points out the inconvenient nature of the existing rules for the sale of monthly tickets on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. In

Inconveniences on the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

the first place, the tickets are sold only during the last three days of each month. This is a time when the office people who use these tickets are mostly out of pocket. Secondly, the hours for selling the tickets at Sealdah are from 10 to 5, that is, the time when the buyers of the tickets have to be present each in his own office.

The correspondent also suggests the desirability of putting on two extra trains in addition to those at present running (viz., one up train between 8-5 and 10-50 in the morning and one down train between 15-27 and 18 in the evening) for the convenience of that particular class of daily passengers who go up from Calcutta or other intermediate stations on business connected with the mills on the river-side or the law courts at Barrackpur.

57. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November says that the revised

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

The revised water-rate rules for the Midnapore Canals.

water-rate rules for the Midnapore Canals make no satisfactory provision for the supply of water. The rules require that if the residents of a particular village do not give a *kabuliyat*, then water will not be supplied to the next village; the result will be that the former villagers will be compelled to execute a *kabuliyat* for fear of being charged with theft of water and made to pay double rates, as water must find its way somehow into their fields through the action of villagers who need water. Provision should be made for the supply of water to villages for which *kabuliyats* have been executed in such a manner that other villages may not be subjected to any *zulm*. It would be more convenient if the time for supplying water be fixed from the 1st May to the 15th November instead of from the 16th June to the 30th November.

(h)—General.

58. In noticing the appointment of Mr. R. W. Carlyle, C.I.E., as officiating

PRATINIDHI,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

Messrs. Carlyle and Macpherson as Chief Secretaries to the Government of Bengal.

Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 9th November remarks that Mr. Carlyle as Collector of Tippera was known as an able officer and as a friend of the native community.

The same paper remarks of Mr. Macpherson, the outgoing Chief Secretary, that it would be hard to find another Government official who was equal to Mr. Macpherson in amiability and sympathy.

59. Adverting to the recent transfer of Mr. T. Inglis, Commissioner

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

Mr. T. Inglis, Commissioner of Burdwan.

of Burdwan, to Dacca, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 15th November remarks that Mr. Inglis was a kind-hearted man, who liked the

people it was his duty to rule, and who was not a "native-hater." It is the duty of the Burdwan public to do honour to such an officer on the eve of his departure from their midst.

60. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 11th November writes:—

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 11th, 1904.

The abolition of the competitive examinations.

Whether intentionally or not, the effect of many recent measures of Government has been to draw a line of demarcation between the middle and the richer classes. Sir George Campbell established the system of competitive examinations as the last blow to the system of *Kulinism* which had been the curse of India for ages. His idea was to allow a fair field to natural talents. But the new policy will work just the contrary way. Henceforth the poor man, however talented he may be, will find all avenues of advancement closed to him.

In every walk of life favour will be the only passport that will lead to promotion. Begin with the primary school class. Here if the student fails to secure the good will of the *guru*, his future educational career is prematurely stopped. Supposing the *guru mahasay* is successfully managed, there are next the ordeals of the Inspecting Pandit, then of the Sub-Inspector of Schools, then of the Deputy-Inspector of Schools, and, finally, of the Inspector of Schools to pass through. At all these successive steps he will have to trust only to favour and influence. And who knows whether in time stronger inducements in the shape of presents and bribery will not come into vogue?

There is, further, the rumour that the Entrance Examination will be abolished, and the admission into colleges made dependent on favour. This will indeed be the coping-stone of the whole edifice.

As a second instance take the Ranchi College scheme, which is meant exclusively to be reserved for the sons of the rich. The Presidency College, even if allowed to exist for the present, is sure to languish for want of adequate financial support from Government.

As regards future appointments to the Provincial and Subordinate Civil Services, the appointments hitherto made justify the conclusion that these posts are to be reserved mainly for the favoured supporters of Government, and that the promise about only University graduates being eligible for nomination under the new system is to count for little in actual practice.

This reactionary policy is not one, however, the future consequences of which should fill us with alarm. There is no power on earth that can stop the current of a nation's life. It is beyond human power to turn back the stream of natural talent which was drawn forth from its hidden springs by Sir George Campbell. It is well that people should no longer be able to waste their talents in service as clerks or Deputy Magistrates. Let these things be reserved for the rich few; but the energy of the ordinary mass of the people will find its appointed destiny all the same. This policy will inculcate a spirit of independence among the people. Education will progress, and the people will gradually learn to speak out their minds freely. Opposition to this growing sentiment will only intensify the spirit it is intended to check. This is proved by universal experience.

Multiplicity of examinations is an undoubted evil; the abolition of a separate examination for Deputy Magistrateships may be justified on this ground. But the principle might have been retained if the choice of candidates had been regulated by their respective positions in the University B. A. or M. A. examinations. Similarly, in the case of the Primary and Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examinations, the examination might have been simplified instead of being abolished. As it is, the scholarship will henceforth be confined only to the *Bhadralog* class. In India this class are still strong opponents of education among the lower classes. Their idea is that education among these classes is creating a dearth of coolies, and if the leaders of native society had the power they would do away with mass education to-morrow. So it is too much to expect that when selecting candidates for scholarships, considerations of caste will be entirely overlooked.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

61. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 15th November, in noticing the recent appointment of Babu Mukunda Lal Ganguly as a Sub-Deputy Magistrate at Mymensingh, remarks that Mukunda Babu's educational qualifications do not extend even to the Entrance standard. The paper criticises the policy of preferring the nomination to the competitive system as indicating an attempt on the part of Government to sap the manhood of the Bengali people.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

62. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November says that in spite of the distinct assurance given by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal that no one except graduates will be appointed as Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors, several such appointments of under-graduates have already been gazetted. Babu Abani Kumar Sen, an under-graduate, has been appointed as Sub-Deputy Collector. His Honour is known to be a man of firm religious convictions, and it is profoundly to be regretted that even the words of such a man have no value. The prospect before the country seems to be very gloomy. Will His Honour yet try to keep his word?

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

63. Referring to the recent Conference of Divisional Commissioners at Darjeeling, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 15th November questions the need of observing secrecy in a case where only measures of public benefit were discussed. Have the public no right to know the subjects discussed and the conclusions arrived at in this Conference? Perhaps it was the doom of the Bengalis which was being settled. Lord Curzon is apparently bent on partitioning Bengal, and Sir Andrew Fraser is lending him his support. Against such a combination, any objection the people might make would be as a cry in the wilderness.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

64. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th November asks whether, as has been authoritatively given out, it was solely with a view to consider the plague regulations that nine Commissioners of Divisions were detained at Darjeeling for a month, or whether there were other subjects for discussion which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor may hereafter disclose, or which may not at all see the light of day.

65. Referring to the proposed partition of Mymensingh, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 15th November remarks that if the partition could not be avoided at all, at least the head-quarters of both the new districts should be located at the existing sadar station. The selection of Jamalpur, which is said to be favoured by Government, will cause great inconvenience and pecuniary loss to the people of Tangail. For Jamalpur is 33 miles distant from Mymensingh, and at the latter town many of the Tangail people already possess houses, which they would have to build afresh at the former town.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

66. The same paper writes:—

The proposed partition of Bengal.

It was at an evil moment that Lord Curzon set foot on Indian soil. While in this country, he forsook food and sleep over his partition scheme. Even in his native country he found no rest. Being vanquished in his arguments in India, he sought consolation from the Secretary of State, and he has at last got the solace he sorely needed for his peace of mind. How ill-starred the Bengalis are! Otherwise, why should Lord Curzon return to India? After her experience of 150 years of British rule a death-blow is going to be struck at the very root of the national life of Bengal!

CHARU MIHIR.

Everything is shrouded in mystery. Why is Government so afraid of light? The attitude of Government has amazed us.

West Bengal must also suffer severely by the change. The taxes must increase and the weight of the burden must crush the Bengalis.

Lord Curzon has discovered a very nice method of providing his kith and kin with the means of livelihood. In the new province many new posts will be created most of which will be filled by Europeans. Lord Curzon is returning to India firmly resolved to carry out his scheme. There is therefore no chance of any consideration or sympathy from him. We firmly believe that if we can make our grievances known to the English people by an agitation in England, we shall yet succeed.

There are those who believe, and with good reason, that agitation will do no good; that nobody in England will dare oppose Lord Curzon. But Government, though despotically inclined, cannot bear to be represented as such before the civilised world, and is therefore obliged to give reasons for whatever it proposes to do. Agitation in England must bear fruit. Mr. Risley's original proposal would have been carried out if there had been no agitation. The revised scheme shews how completely the original proposal has been modified. Who can say after this that agitation is useless?

The London correspondent of the *Bengalee* newspaper says that a Bill for the partition of Bengal must pass through the British Parliament before the partition can be effected. And the same correspondent adds: "Lord Curzon may be all-powerful in India, but in England he is merely a servant of the public." Herein lies our only hope.

It is well known how an attempt was made by the Nawab of Dacca and his Manager, the late Mr. Garth, to manufacture public opinion in favour of the new scheme of partition by which the Rajshahi Division has now been proposed to be incorporated with Assam along with the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. Everybody knows what sort of a representative of the people the Nawab is, as also how far Government consults public opinion in this country. Government, however, does not hesitate to magnify the importance of a nonentity, if his views happen to lend support to its own.

Even Mr. Risley would now feel ashamed to repeat the arguments upon which he based his original scheme, so completely have those arguments been demolished by the counter-arguments of his critics. If the real object be to give relief to the Lieutenant-Governor, that object may well be attained by severing Bihar and Orissa from Bengal. Why, then, it should be necessary to partition Bengal for that purpose, it is beyond our power to comprehend.

We implore our countrymen to be up and doing in time. The danger that threatens will not affect East Bengal alone. Never perhaps in the history of the nation did a calamity of such magnitude threaten to befall it. Even if the whole of the wealth and energy of the country were utilised to avert the calamity, it would not be enough. The effort to be made by the Bengalis to prevent the

danger would shew whether they are men and whether they really deserve political privileges. There is great danger ahead! Forget your racial and religious differences, sink your private quarrels, and enter the lists! He scarcely deserves to be called a human being and is surely an enemy to his country who is indifferent even at the approach of such a calamity.

MALDAH SAMACHAR,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

67. The *Maldaha Samachar* [Malda] of the 16th November, in referring to the current impression that the partition of Bengal has been finally decided upon, insists on the

The partition of Bengal.

need of getting up a strong agitation against the proposed measure, not necessarily in the hope that it will succeed in preventing the partition from being carried out, but at least to convince the British public of the strong feelings of the Bengali people on this question.

JYOTI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

68. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 17th November observes that the subserviency to official influence which has been displayed by the wealthier classes of Bengal in the

The proposed partition of Bengal.

matter of the collection of funds for the Ranchi College affords an indication that they would be equally found wanting in courage to make an effectual stand against the approaching partition of Bengal.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

69. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November has an article on the partition question, in which it says that if the new and revised scheme of partition be carried out, the

The partition question.

fate of the Bengali nation would be sealed. This time everything is being done in secret for fear of opposition. A great agitation against the new scheme has been set on foot. Within a week a Committee will be formed in Calcutta to organise a formidable opposition, the whole country will be in flames, and the echo will reach as far as England. We will not tamely suffer ourselves to be kicked. We will represent our grievances to the British public and we must succeed.

Let the whole country awake. This time let both West and East Bengal join in a united agitation and save the Bengali nation from the jaws of ruin.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

70. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November observes that when the present scheme for redistribution of territory was announced, the two guiding principles were taken

The partition question.

to be (1) to arrange for relief to the overworked Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and (2) to bring as far as possible people speaking the same language and belonging to the same race under the same Government. But it is a matter of deep regret that in practice, the latter principle has been completely disregarded. For the shape which the partition proposal has assumed at present involves the splitting up of Bengal Proper, which is one in language, race, social usages and historical traditions, and its distribution among two different administrations. It appears therefore that the authorities do not hesitate to change their arguments to suit their convenience. Naturally therefore people are coming to think that the real motives underlying these proposals are a desire to create some more desirable berths for civilians and to strike a blow at the growing influence of the Bengali race. If these be the true reasons, where is the need of putting forth specious pleas? When our rulers possess such almost boundless powers, who can prevent them from carrying out the partition by force if they choose?

A strong agitation on this question has again been set on foot, though there is not much chance of its proving of any avail. Rumour has it that Lord Curzon's principal motive in coming back to India is to carry out this partition. If it be so, who can prevent the inevitable? In truth the situation is indeed hopeless. The Viceroy is resolute in his opinion, the subordinate rulers are lending him the strength of their support, and the King is too far off to listen to our wails of distress. Where then can we hope for redress?

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

71. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November has the following:—

The partition question.

The arguments advanced against the proposed partition of Bengal appear to the authorities purely sentimental. If this sentiment is eliminated, they say, nothing remains that is worth any consideration. But we must say that, apart from sentiment, there are weightier matters in the public protests that ought not to be ignored. At first it was proposed to transfer only the Chittagong Division and the Dacca and Mymensingh districts to Assam, and it was, then that among other arguments the inconveniences of the journey

to the capital of Assam were mentioned; but it must not be supposed therefore that all opposition could be disarmed by merely changing the capital town either to Dacca or to Chittagong. We, on our part, fail to see what benefits would result to East Bengal from the proposed partition. One thing, however, is certain, namely, that impecunious Assam would profit immensely by the change. But it is not at all desirable that East Bengal should be made to sacrifice its own interests for the sake of Assam. How can the sons of Bengal accept without a protest an arrangement that would enrich the Assam planters at the cost of Bengal and sever the tie of brotherhood subsisting between West and East Bengal? That such must be the result appears from the case of Sylhet. Is there any longer the same strong sympathy between us and the people of Sylhet? There can be no doubt that both West and East Bengal will deteriorate by being severed from each other. We see clearly before our eyes the vision of the degradation that will gradually overtake the whole of Bengal. How then can we suffer ourselves to be duped by the sweet words of Government and swallow the poisoned pill, though coated with sugar, which it offers us?

Even admitting, for the sake of argument, that all our objections are groundless and absurd, we ask, why do the authorities seek to force this measure upon the people out of *sid*, although they know for certain that the people do not want it? Are the arguments advanced by Government so very faultless? If East Bengal be not incorporated with Assam, will the Empire go to ruin? The argument based upon the similarity of races and languages upon which at first so great stress was laid seems now to be abandoned. The other argument, namely, that it is necessary to relieve the Lieutenant-Governor, is as flimsy as the first, since the relief in question can be easily afforded by other means without having recourse to this obnoxious measure, which cannot fail to give mortal pain to the population of a whole province. We confess we fail to comprehend why the authorities are so resolutely bent upon carrying out a measure which has so little to justify it. If, on the other hand, it be intended to injure the Bengalis by partitioning Bengal, then of course all our arguments will be deemed worthless by the authorities. If a man is really asleep, it is not difficult to wake him; but if sleep is feigned and the man is determined not to open his eyes, it is not in the power of mortals to rouse him.

72. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 16th November notices with approval the recent action of Mr. Streatfeild, the Collector of Backergunge, in announcing that during his tours of inspection in the mufassal he will not accept *dalis* (presents) from anybody.

KASIPUR-NIVASI,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

73. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 16th November says that Mr. A. H. Arnott, the present Executive Engineer of the Nadia Rivers Division, treats his subordinates most haughtily and rudely. He seldom allows them a holiday, and they are made to work hard even on Sundays and during gazetted holidays. Every official paper that passes through his hands is marked "Urgent," "At once," "Immediate" and so forth, and the slightest omission in carrying out his orders is most severely punished, either with fine or with reprimand. Woe to the clerk who may be suspected of having given currency to the oppressions of the Executive Engineer. He makes his men work till 8 or 9 in the night. A few days ago he fined a *chaprassi* Re. 1 for a slight offence even in the presence of his official superior, Mr. D. B. Horn, the Chief Engineer. Mr. Arnott once refused to grant leave to a clerk who had filed a medical certificate from an eminent European Resident Surgeon in Calcutta. It is to be hoped Government will take due notice of the regrettable state of things obtaining in the office of the Engineer, Nadia Rivers Division.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

74. Referring to the increase of Government's excise revenue last year, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th November observes that for a civilized Government to traffic in intoxicating articles and also to enjoy a monopoly of some of them appears most incongruous. Government sells wine and, when there is a falling off in the consumption thereof, calls for an explanation from its officers. Again, when a person is found to be disorderly in his conduct from the effects of heavy drinking, he is punished with fine. So there is a gain all round in the business.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

75. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November, in noticing the fact that the recent passage of the Tibet Mission through Sikkim has led to increased drunkenness among the savage inhabitants of that country, insists that it is the duty of Government in this case to save the people from the effect of their own imprudence, and that the low standard of civilisation prevalent would justify the adoption of more stringent measures to this end in Sikkim than those generally applicable to the country.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

76. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November suggests that the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale should be appointed Finance Minister in the place of Sir Edward Law, who is about to retire. There is no doubt, the writer thinks, that Mr. Gokhale is an abler man than Sir Edward. But there is no likelihood of such an appointment being made, for the Government of India has not the generosity and impartiality which alone can bring about such a result.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 21st, 1904.

77. Commenting upon the *Pioneer's* statement that somebody from England will come to fill up the vacancy caused in the Viceregal Council by the present Finance Minister resigning his post on account of ill-health, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st November says:—

It is not our concern who comes. We are to lie in the dark, so day or night would make no difference to us. Whoever will be the Financial Member, it will be his duty to express his satisfaction at the elasticity of the finances and growing prosperity of the people when introducing his budget for the year in the Council.

ARYAVARTA,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

78. *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 12th November says that the mails in the local post office are now again being received with unusual delay from Purulia. The post office authorities would oblige us by paying greater attention to this matter and making arrangements which will satisfy the public. We have invited their attention more than once, but we do not understand why no notice has been taken of so important a matter as this.

JYOTI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

79. A correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 17th November, referring to the sanction said to have been accorded to the establishment of a branch post office at Dhalghat and to the delay which is occurring in carrying this sanction into effect owing to difference of local opinion as to the particular site where the new office should be located, suggests Krishnakhali as the best site.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 19th, 1904.

80. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November complains of the inconvenience caused by the irregularity in the arrival of the mails at Contai town. There are two routes by which the mails for Contai are despatched from Calcutta. Letters posted in Calcutta in the evening are sent by the Punjab Mail and arrive at Contai earlier than letters posted in the forenoon, which are sent *via* Diamond Harbour. The Diamond Harbour route should be abandoned and the mails should be sent by the Punjab Mail alone. The attention of the Postal authorities is drawn to the matter.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
Nov. 19th, 1904.

81. A correspondent of the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 19th November complains of irregularity in the delivery of letters and parcels at the Ghol post office in the district of Howrah. The correspondent alleges that during the late Puja holidays he had some twenty to twenty-five letters addressed to him from Calcutta and other places, but none of them reached him. Similarly, an insured parcel for Rs. 100, which was despatched from Calcutta on the 8th November, did not reach the consignee up to 2 P.M. on the 11th November.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

82. The *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 18th November makes a suggestion that in assessing incomes derived from service only, the net income should be taken as the basis, as is done in the case of incomes derived from trade. For instance, income from house property is allowed a deduction of one-sixth on account of rates, charges for repairs, etc. It is pointed out that service entails upon a man certain direct charges in the shape of extra carriage hire, extra expense on washing, extra house rent and the like. These extra charges are as much of a necessity to the man in service as the rates and repairing charges are to the

house-owner. A deduction granted in the one case cannot therefore with justice be refused in the other.

83. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th November says that the representation which has been made to the Chairman of the Gaya District Board by the residents of Budh-Gaya and its vicinity objecting to the exclusive possession and occupation of the rest-house at the above place by the Buddhists, awaits the decision of the Board. The rest-house was constructed by the District Board for the convenience of pilgrims in general visiting the shrine at Budh-Gaya. It is therefore a painful circumstance that Hindu pilgrims should not be allowed a shelter there, and in consequence suffer great privations. There is a rumour that the District Board has made provisions which practically place the rest-house in the exclusive possession of the followers of Dharma Pal. But this is only a rumour and cannot be depended upon. The Hindus are anxiously awaiting the result, and hope that a careful enquiry will be made into all the points raised in the representation before the final verdict is pronounced.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 19th, 1904.

84. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th November has the following:—
Government servants. Nowadays it is a common practice with every servant of the Government to accept bribes. From the Deputy Magistrate down to a common sweeper, there is not a single man who does not take bribe in some form or other. But while inferior officers are severely punished when they are detected in taking illegal gratifications, those of the superior class enjoy an immunity from such punishment.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 20th, 1904.

Whenever the Indians are subjected to any oppressive measure of the Government, they seek the protection of the Royal Proclamation of 1857. But very few Viceroys have acted up to that *firman*. On the other hand, many of them oppress the Indians in order to please their countrymen. Lord Curzon is a Viceroy of the latter type.

It appears from the *Calcutta Gazette* that of the three Deputy Collectors recently appointed by the Government of Bengal, two are *sahibs* and only one is a native. From this it may be inferred that all Government appointments will henceforth be filled up by the white men to the exclusion of the children of the soil. The only alternative open to the Indians is that they should strike an independent course of their own to earn their livelihood.

85. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st November says that in order to make both the seller and buyer of poisonous drugs responsible, Government is about to issue a set of rules, under the 8th clause of which a vendor of these drugs, specially opium, will be bound to obtain the signature of the buyer to be kept in a register for the purpose.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 21st, 1904.

It is necessary to point out that in many cases the working of the rule will be simply impossible. A large number of persons who purchase opium are illiterate. Will they give up taking opium on account of their inability to sign their names? There are again others to whom the use of opium is indispensable. Such will be put to great hardship if they cannot sign their names. It is therefore our earnest prayer that Government may consider the matter carefully before passing such a rigorous law.

III.—LEGISLATION.

86. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th November says that the native Press repeatedly requested the Government for permission to publish the report of the Police Commission, but to no effect. But the *Times* of London has published a portion of that report, and *Truth* of London has disclosed some official secrets of the departments of the Government of the United Provinces, but no one has taken these papers to task. It seems, therefore, that the Official Secrets Act is intended for the native Press only.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 20th, 1904.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

87. Referring to the education and bringing up of the native princes under the supervision of Europeans and the association of the princesses with European ladies which altogether changes their habits, manners and

BIHAR BANDHU
Nov. 15th, 1904.

likings, the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 15th November invites the attention of the Government to this system of guardianship, under which the princes are so completely anglicised, and prays that it should take necessary steps to protect them from such influences.

BIHAR BANDHU,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

88. The same paper warns the Dumraon Raj, which is being managed by highly paid Managers and Deputy Managers, its proprietor being a lady, against the litigation in which the estate is at present engaged against

Mr. Earnest Fox, late Assistant Manager of the estate, and Babu Bashisht Lal who was a subordinate of his, and against Babu Lal Singh of Saran. The paper alludes to Brijnandan Lal, the Raj attorney, who is said to be at the root of this litigation, as being perhaps the person who was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in a post office cheating case. The paper recommends that the parties should settle the matter amicably and out of court, as many filthy scandals will come to light should the cases now pending before the Courts be proceeded with.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

89. Referring to Lord Curzon's projected and Lord Amphill's actual visit to Kashmir, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November remarks as follows:—

Lord Amphill's visit to Kashmir. Kashmir, why was so much beauty given to thee? In every age thy beauty has been thy ruin.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

90. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th November adversely criticises a suggestion made by His Highness the Aga Khan in the course of the last Budget debate in the Legislative Council of India that the Native States should be called on to take an increased share of the burden of the defence of the Empire. It is pointed out in the first place that these native princes are without any duly constituted spokesman of their own in the Councils of Government. Then, again, if there were any real need, the native princes can never be backward in contributing their share to the defences, for already they are too subservient to their respective Political Agents, and they sometimes even exceed their means in their efforts to gratify these officers. The adoption of the Aga Khan's proposal would simply add a new burden to their already overburdened shoulders.

About the question as to the proper apportionment of the costs of defence among the parties interested, it may further be pointed out that England, in the case of the defence of India, shirks the expense she willingly incurs in the case of the great colonies. And, further, the present army of India is admittedly large enough for the purposes for which it exists. In making the proposal he did, the Aga Khan was evidently misled into thinking that at present the only contribution the Native States make to the Imperial revenues is the amount of 83½ lakhs which appears in the Budget under the head of "Annual Tributes from Native States." But it should not be forgotten that the Salt, the Customs, the Abkari, the Forests, the Post, the Railway and the Telegraph are all more or less monopolies of the Imperial Government and that the subjects of the Native States contribute a share in the income from these departments. Now, the total income from all these sources is roughly 23½ crores. And as the population of the Native States forms one-fourth of the total population of India, their share in making up this total of 23½ crores may be taken roughly at six crores. Add to these the 83½ lakhs paid as Annual Tributes and the total contribution to Imperial funds from Native States comes roughly to 6½ crores. Now, the net expenditure on the army of India is 23½ crores. If this charge be apportioned strictly on the basis of population, the utmost that falls to the share of the Native States is about six crores. But it has just been shown above that the actual contribution is in excess of this amount.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

91. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 13th November has the following under the heading of "The age of changes:—"
We are being gradually deprived of political liberty. The Press Act and the Official Secrets Act are the best examples of the fact. The power of electing members for the Legislative Councils has been

curtailed, first by making that election subject to the approval of Government, and secondly, by transferring the power hitherto exercised by the Municipalities to the Zamindars' Associations. The system of election of Fellows for the University has been completely changed. The elective system is undergoing another change, and in a short time will be altogether done away with and the system of nomination substituted. All the troubles would come to an end if the Government, tearing away the veil of decorum, were to plainly declare that it could not brook even partially the elective system. The object of Government by these changes, which are called reforms, is simply to show to the world how generous it is in leaving the people where they were before. This reminds one of the story of the jackal who invited a crane to dinner and served out the soup in a shallow dish. The Government has acted the part of the jackal towards us. We have not really the privilege of electing members to the Council. We have got the privilege in name only, for if we elect a member who is not approved by the Governor-General he will not be allowed a seat in the Council.

We have only to look to Government for favours. We cannot prove our fitness by appealing to force as they do in the West and obtain new privileges by fair means or foul. The same nation which knows full well the real worth of personal liberty, has granted us the same for the sake of its honour and prestige. If, therefore, living under its rule for a hundred years we have not been found fit to enjoy the benefits of the elective system, it is not so much to our discredit as it is to our rulers'. Had India been under the rule of the savages who inhabit the Fiji or the Kafir country, or if it had placed itself of its own accord under the tyrannical Russians or had the English been a barbarous, cruel nation, we would have nothing to say. But we are the loyal subjects of the liberal minded King-Emperor Edward VII and live under the liberal rule of England. We do not wish to live under any other rule. Why are we then being treated by our Government in this way? When the British Government has taught us Western civilization and given us Western education, it should, as a matter of course, give us Western rights and privileges. When the British nation is our ruler, it should so treat us that we may have the proud privilege of telling the world that we are the disciples of the English. It will not do to follow a new line of policy.

92. The *Ghar Bandhu* [Ranchi] of the 15th November compares the condition of the Parsis with that of the Hindus, and refutes the argument of the latter that the people of India are not growing under British rule by pointing to the prosperity of the Parsis under the same rule and telling them that they must thank themselves for their present condition.

GHAR BANDHU,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

93. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 15th November appeals to Sir A. Fraser to take advantage of his forthcoming tour through Burdwan to make a study on the spot of the misery and destruction wrought in the villages south of the Damodar by the absence of an embankment on that side of the river. His Honour is also requested to provide some remedy for the water-supply difficulty.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

94. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th November has a long article on Sir Henry Cotton's speech at the Church Conference in London on the effects of British Imperialism. The following portion of the speech is quoted approvingly:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 16th, 1904.

"All classes are demoralised in private and public life. Among women who are more rapidly demoralised than men, the abuse of those 'horrid natives' is a common practice. Among men how often do we hear the word 'nigger' as though it were the proper designation of the people of the country."

The writer concludes by asking whether the helpless Indians can expect any good by agitation in England, when so alarming is the demoralisation that has overtaken the English people.

95. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th November deplores the hard lot of Indian coolies in foreign lands. They leave their mother-country to seek their bread in other lands, but fail to collect a fair sum when returning home after many years.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

The case of Indian coolies returning from Trinidad and the Fiji Islands proves the truth of these remarks.

AL PUNCH,
Nov. 19th, 1904.

96. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 19th November is glad that no epidemic disease has broken out this year in the Sonepur fair.

The Sonepur fair.

The local officers took special care to make the fair as magnificent as possible. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's visit has increased its popularity and importance, as the sightseers are going there in large numbers packed up like chattels in goods wagons.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

97. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 9th November approves of the appointment of Babu Bamdeb Chaudhury,

A new Uriya Deputy Magistrate.

a son of the premier zamindar of Orissa, to the Provincial Executive Service, and hopes that he will

be in a position to give the lie to the charges of incapacity and ignorance generally brought against the zamindars of Orissa.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

98. After thanking the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj for the pluck he has

Proposed construction of a light railway by the Raja of Nilgiri.

shown in constructing a branch railway from the Baripada station of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to the Baripada *garh*, the same paper informs the

public that the Raja of Nilgiri is contemplating the construction of a branch railway from his *garh* to the main line of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and observes that the construction of a branch line to Nilgiri will immediately lead to the development of the celebrated stone quarrying industry in that State.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

99. Referring to the riot that took place at Amraurangi and was

The riot at Amraurangi: a correction.

reported in the last week, the same paper corrects its own mistake and states that out of two men that were grievously hurt, one is still living. The

other wounded men are recovering. Several of the accused have absconded and the police is on their track.

GARJATBASINI,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

100. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 12th November approves of the establishment of two *pathasalas* (primary schools)

The education of the aboriginal races in Talcher State.

for the education of the children of the Pan, Lehura, Taurila and other low aboriginal races in

the Talcher *garh*. This augurs well, as free education will lighten the masses in that State.

GARJATBASINI.

101. The same paper supports the proposal of Munshi Muhammad Attahar, Assistant Manager in charge of the

The education of the Pan tribe in Angul.

Baisinga subdivision of Dhenkanal, to establish schools for the education of the children of the

Pans, who have hitherto been treated as belonging to a criminal tribe, and observes that education only can ameliorate the condition of these low people. The writer hopes that the Deputy Commissioner of Angul will support the proposal of the Subdivisional Officer.

GARJATBASINI.

Public health in Talcher State.

102. The same paper states that the health of the Talcher State is good.

103. The same paper gives a description of the Hindol *garh*, compares

GARJATBASINI.

The state of Hindol.

its present with its past state, and draws the conclusion that the Raja of that State has spent a large

amount of money in improving its sanitary condition and in making it more attractive and habitable.

GURJATBASINI.

104. The same paper states that the Raja of Bamra in the Central

The first motorist among the Uriya Princes.

Provinces is the first Uriya Prince to use a motor-car in his State. His first journey on this car was from Bamra to Govindapur.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

105. The *Utkal dipika*

The Balasore District Board and the teachers of some Minor schools.

[Cuttack] of the 12th November agrees with its contemporary of the *Utkalhasi* of Ganjam that the dealings of the Balasore District Board with the teachers of some Minor schools in that district are quite unjust. The teachers were not paid for one

year, and when they submitted their salary bills for that year, the District Board granted only seven months' salary, disallowing five month's salary for

reasons best known to it. If the teachers worked for one year, they ought to have been paid one year's salary. The writer therefore requests the District Board to reconsider its decision.

106. Referring to the policy of Government regarding education in India, as indicated in the speech of the Secretary of State for India, delivered in the course of the submission of the Indian Budget to the British Parliament, the same paper points out that it is the intention of Lord Curzon to discourage high education in India and to dispense with the services of the Indians in the higher grades of the Indian civil and military services as far as practicable. The writer wonders that Lord Curzon is praised so much in England because His Excellency is bent on carrying out retrograde measures against the wishes of the Indian people.

UTKALDIPKA.
Nov. 12th, 1904.

107. The same paper states that there has been no rain for the last three weeks and that the agriculturists are very uneasy on that account.

UTKALDIPKA.

The weather and prospects of the crops.

108. The same paper states that the number of cholera cases in Cuttack town is decreasing and that the municipal authorities are on the alert.

UTKALDIPKA.

Cholera at Cuttack.

109. The Madhupur correspondent of the same paper states that the state of the paddy crop in that State is deplorable and that the Madhupur people have therefore become very uneasy.

UTKALDIPKA.

The paddy crop in the State of Madhupur.

110. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper states that a four-anna paddy crop has already been destroyed in Targada, Pachkote and Sukinda through drought. This is no doubt a serious affair.

UTKALDIPKA.

Damage to the paddy crop.

ASSAM PAPERS.

111. In noticing a rumour that Babu Sures Chandra Das, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Sylhet, will be appointed second officer at Sunamganj, vice Babu Joges Chanda Dutt, a correspondent of the *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 17th November protests against the proposed appointment on the ground that during a former tenure of office at that place Sures Babu showed himself in many cases subservient to the influence of certain friends and relatives he possess at the station.

PARIDARSAK,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

Babu Sures Chandra Das, Extra Assistant Commissioner.

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NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 26th November 1904.

